Amphetamines

What are Amphetamines?

- Amphetamines are drugs that are classified as Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants.
- Amphetamines are also drugs that induce false feelings strength and enhanced motivation.
- Amphetamines can be divided into three basic groups:
  - Amphetamine (Benzedrine)
  - Dexamphetamine (Dexedrine)

Learning Objective

- State the definition of CNS Stimulant
- Identify the effects of amphetamines

History of Amphetamines

1887 – The first amphetamine was synthesized by a German chemist.

1919 – Methamphetamine is discovered.

1932 – Amphetamines sold for the first time as an over-the-counter cough suppressant.

1940s – Dextroamphetamine becomes commonly available throughout the US.

1950s – Amphetamines widely

History of Amphetamines

<u>1960s</u> – Methamphetamine use begins to appear around the United States.

<u>1970s</u> – Amphetamines are designated as an illegal substance by the *United States Drug Abuse Regulation and Control Act of 1970*.

<u>Present</u> – Amphetamines are classified by the DEA as a Schedule II Controlled Substance and smoking of

Why are Amphetamines Used?

- Amphetamines can be used for medicinal purposes.
- The most common legal uses today are to treat:
  - Narcolepsy
  - Hyperactivity (in children)
- They are also used for illicit purposes, the most common of which is to stay awake for long periods of time.
- Used by drug users to treat the unpleasant effects of other drugs.

How are Amphetamines Consumed?

- <u>Orally</u> – In pill, tablet or liquid form
- <u>Snorted</u> – This can cause severe damage to the interior and exterior of the nose.
- <u>Injection</u> –
  - Into the blood stream
  - Into muscle tissue
- <u>Smoked</u>

Effects of Amphetamines

Short Term

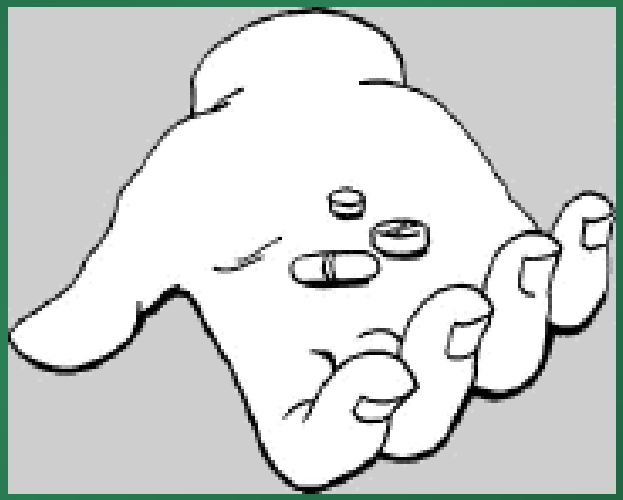
- Dilated Pupils
- Increased Blood Pressure
- Increased Heart Rate
- Decreased Appetite
- Dry Mouth
- Tremors
- Dizziness / Nausea
- Irregular Heartbeat
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Collapse
- Loss of Consciousness

Effects of Amphetamines

Long Term

In addition to those listed below amphetamine use can cause the users to have long term problems with high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, and severe sleeping disorders.

Malnutrition **- Because Amphetamines reduce the users appetite, they are less likely to eat properly and because of this are less resistant to infections.**



Chronic Psychosis **– Symptoms include paranoia, delusions, and bizarre behavior. This can be seen as early as 1 week after the user has stopped using.**

Chronic Anxiety/Tension **- To combat this users often turn to alcohol and barbiturates for help. Chronic Anxiety may also lead to violent behavior.**

Brain Damage **– Long term use of Amphetamines can cause damage to the brain, specifically areas that deal with memory and everyday thinking.**

Amphetamine Testing in the Army

- Amphetamines can be detected in urine for 2-3 days after ingestion.
- The Army tests every specimen for amphetamines.
- The illegal use of amphetamines or any drug goes against Soldiers Values and Warrior Pride.

Additional Information

Additional information on amphetamines can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting www.acsap.army.mil.

WARRIOR

Personal Courage: Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.

Respect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.

Duty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.

Excellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!